

**Testimony of Shana Moynihan
Before the Public Health Committee
March 16, 2009**

Good morning Chairs and Committee members, and a thank you to my legislators Representative Bye and Senator Harris for being here today.

My name is Shana Moynihan and I am a 21 yr old Social Work Major at Central Connecticut State University. I'm here to speak to you today about H. B. No. 6676 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING LICENSURE OF CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS.

As a current Bachelors level Social Work student this bill will directly affect me. As of now if I continue on in my education in Connecticut and receive my Masters from UConn I will face more difficulty getting a job in Connecticut than I would in Massachusetts or any of the other 45 States that offer multi level licensing.

The difficulty that not having a license poses for a graduating Master of Social Work student is immense. Many hospitals and care facilities will not hire non-licensed Social Workers, but in order to currently get licensed in the one class that Connecticut offers I need 3,000 hours of experience. If I can't get that experience I can't get licensed, but I face great difficulty in obtaining the experience because I'm not licensed. It's a never-ending cyclical problem that H. B. No. 6676 would solve.

Factually speaking, Licensing MSW graduates can generate up to \$325,000 in revenue for the first year enacted, and \$150,000 in annual revenue thereafter. This would be a huge asset to the State given our current economic deficit. Connecticut would join the other 45 states that have multi-level licensure, including our neighboring states, New York, Massachusetts, & Rhode Island. This would help to keep graduating social work students in the State, bolstering our economy. Qualified licensed practitioners would deliver all clinical social work services which would protect consumers through legal regulation of new clinical social work practitioners.

Please Support Expanding Social Work Licensure in Connecticut, not only for me as a student but also for Connecticut's economy, the protection of consumers, and to the benefit of Social Workers state wide.

Thank you for your time.